

SCOTT T. NAGO  
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER

**STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF ELECTIONS**

802 LEHUA AVENUE  
PEARL CITY, HAWAII 96782  
elections.hawaii.gov

TESTIMONY OF THE  
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER, OFFICE OF ELECTIONS  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1248, HD 1  
RELATING TO ELECTIONS

February 21, 2019

Chair Luke and members of the House Committee on Finance, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 1248, HD 1. This bill implements elections by mail statewide beginning in 2020.

The Office of Elections supports elections by mail because it is convenient and accessible for voters, and it will streamline the administration of elections. In recent elections, more than half of voters have cast their ballot prior to election day.

Additionally, elections by mail would limit logistical issues and voter confusion that may occur at polling place facilities in close proximity to the election. For example, we were notified on June 25, 2018 that the Waikele Elementary School Cafeteria would be unavailable for the Primary Election due to demolition and construction. Waikele Elementary School Cafeteria serves as a polling place for two precincts, 35-05 and 37-04. We mailed letters to these voters notifying them that their polling place had been reassigned to Waikele Community Park for voters of 35-05, and Kanoelani School for voters of 37-04. However, Election Day Officials reported that there was voter confusion as these voters have been voting at Waikele Elementary School since the early 2000s.

This bill appropriates \$200,000 to the Office of Elections for voter education and implementation of elections by mail, and \$830,731 to the Counties in the form of grants based on the percentage of registered voters. These totals were provided during the 2018 Legislative Session by our office with the help of the Counties. Since that time, \$75,450 was appropriated to the County of Kauai

to implement the 2020 elections by mail pilot program, and the Counties have reviewed their estimated costs detailed in the table below:

Office of Elections	200,000
County of Hawaii	328,812
County of Maui	205,695
City and County of Honolulu	377,620
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$1,112,127</u></b>

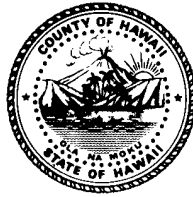
As such, we would ask that this bill appropriate \$1,112,127 to implement elections by mail. Additionally, we would ask that the bill appropriate the specified total for each County rather than as a percentage of voter registration. The Counties estimates are for capital equipment such as a high-speed scanner/sorter to receive and validate voted mail return envelopes, as well as security cages to store validated ballots that are not being directly processed. Once elections by mail has been implemented statewide, we estimate a cost-savings of \$750,000 which is primarily based on the cost of Election Day Officials who would staff and support polling places.

We would also propose amendments related to returning the voted ballot, and the number of places of deposit and voter service centers. We believe Section 11-D(c)(1) should be amended to allow a ballot to be returned by mail such that it is received by the Clerk's Office by the close of polls or postmarked no later than 5 days prior to election day. This would ensure all ballots received by the Clerk's Office, by any means, at the close of polls on election day could be validated for counting.

We would propose amending Section 11-I(d)(2) to require the minimum number of places of deposit and in-person voting to refer to a County rather than each island. For example, as written, this Section would require the County of Kauai to establish a place of deposit on the island of Niihau which is privately owned. In the past, the owners have indicated their preference for voting by mail and to rely on the United States Postal Service pursuant to HRS §15-4.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 1248, HD 1.

JON HENRICKS  
*County Clerk*



AARON BROWN  
*Deputy County Clerk*

**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK**

**Elections Division**  
*County of Hawai'i*  
*Hawai'i County Building*  
*25 Aupuni Street*  
*Hilo, Hawai'i 96720*

**TESTIMONY OF JON HENRICKS**  
**COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF HAWAI'I**  
**TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**  
**ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1248, HD 1**  
**RELATING TO ELECTIONS**

**February 20, 2019**

Chair Luke and members of the House Committee on Finance, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 1248 HD 1. This bill implements voting by mail statewide beginning in 2020.

Our office supports the intent of the bill. Currently, elections in our state consist of absentee voting by mail, absentee walk-in sites and Election Day voting. Absentee voting was implemented to supplement Election Day polling places to allow voters more convenient and accessible ways to vote. Individuals choosing to vote absentee has consistently increased with more than half of voters casting their ballot prior to Election Day.

We believe, transitioning to a vote by mail election would increase voter turnout by creating a more convenient voter process and could allow for financial savings.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 1248 HD1.

JOSIAH K. NISHITA  
County Clerk



MARGARET C. CLARK  
Deputy County Clerk

**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK**

COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 S. HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
[www.mauicounty.gov/county/clerk](http://www.mauicounty.gov/county/clerk)

TESTIMONY OF JOSIAH NISHITA  
COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF MAUI  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1248, HD 1  
RELATING TO ELECTIONS

February 20, 2019

Chair Luke and members of the House Committee on Finance, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 1248, HD 1. This bill will enact voting by mail uniformly for all counties beginning in 2020.

We feel that elections by mail is a more efficient and effective way to reach our voters and administer elections. Additionally, we would be prepared to implement voting by mail in 2020, and we respectfully request your support of this Bill and implementation date.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill No. 1248, HD 1.





## DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

1010 Richards Street, Room 118 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V) • Fax (808) 586-8129 • TTY (808) 586-8162

February 21, 2019

### TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

#### House Bill 1248, HD1 - Relating to Elections

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports and offers comments on House Bill 1248, HD1 - Relating to Elections, which enacts voting by mail uniformly across all counties for all elections commencing in 2020. Appropriates funds for the implementation and administration of the election by mail program. Requires the Office of Elections to submit a report to the Legislature regarding the implementation of a vote by mail system.

House Draft 1 includes provisions to have accessible voting machines at the newly established voter service centers, and electronic ballots may be requested by a person with a disability at any time. These provisions are consistent with the Help America Vote Act of 2002 which ensures that people with disabilities may vote independently and privately.

The bill references "voters with special needs" and we would like to have that phrase defined in the bill. Are "voters with special needs" referring to people with disabilities or others who may need assistance, such as people with limited English proficiency? If that is the case, it needs to be defined in the bill. People with disabilities are not "voters with special needs" they have the same rights as other voters and may need to have access in a different manner when compared to other voters. If "voters with special needs" means "voters with disabilities" than we request you use the appropriate terminology.

Our final concern is the number of voter service centers is defined by population of a particular county. The County of Hawaii has a greater land mass than other counties but may need to have more voter service centers based on size and distance the voter may need to travel to drop off a ballot. Although voters may vote and return their ballots by mail, it may not be the most accessible option for the voter. Each county may wish to establish voter service centers based on their own needs and criteria. We suggest that the law suggest a minimum number of voter service centers based on population, however it should be left to each county to determine the number of voter service centers that meets their needs.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comment.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Francine Wai".

FRANCINE WAI  
Executive Director



49 South Hotel Street, Room 314 | Honolulu, HI 96813  
[www.lwv-hawaii.com](http://www.lwv-hawaii.com) | 808.531.7448 | [voters@lwv-hawaii.com](mailto:voters@lwv-hawaii.com)

## COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Thursday, February 21, 2019, 1:30 p.m., Room 308  
HB 1248 HD1 RELATING TO ELECTIONS

### TESTIMONY

Janet Mason, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii **strongly supports the intent of HB 1248, HD1 that would introduce voting by mail statewide for all elections beginning in 2020.**

Research indicates this modern approach to voting improves turnout, which is the main reason the League supports the bill, but a 2022 start date instead of 2020 is more prudent. We will have results from Kauai's 2020 "vote by mail experience" to guide state and county officials in preparing for 2022 and we will have other opportunities to improve the current absentee voting program, which is already very popular. To be successful, voters need to be well educated on this change, and our County clerks need time to procure deposit boxes and identify locations for voter service centers and places of deposit.

Since last Fall, much has been made over procedures for returning ballots to the Clerk on Election Day. Section 11-D (c) of this measure sets deadlines that differ, depending on the method of delivery. In fact, this measure calls for mail ballots to be postmarked before midnight **five days before Election Day**. We do not support this; it would confuse voters.

We now defer to the County Clerks about the practicality of a simple deadline. Can't "received by the Clerk" mean 6:00 p.m. Election Day, for all methods: returned by mail, by electronic delivery where permitted, by personal delivery to a place of deposit, or by personal delivery to a voter service center? We call your attention to the Senate companion bill SB 560 SD1, which has such consistent deadlines.

Another difference with companion SB560 SD1 concerns requiring an initial tabulation of votes and a final tabulation of votes. League members know from firsthand experience that our Office of Elections takes great care in scrutinizing the validity of return ballot envelopes. Ballots which cannot immediately be validated upon receipt (such as those awaiting confirmation by the County Clerk that the person is a registered voter) are set aside until a careful determination of validity is made. These return ballot envelopes should not be co-mingled with those in the initial tabulation; but if valid, will be included in a final tabulation. Every vote counts, so we support the provision in SB 560 allowing the clerk to have seven days following an election to determine the validity of all ballots. This seven-day period could help avoid recounts in close elections.

An appropriation is required for implementation of voting by mail. We fully support the effort to measure savings derived through voting by mail instead of polling place voting; this assessment should be included in the Office of Elections reports to the legislature for sessions 2020 through 2025.

This measure holds promise for Hawaii voters. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



**Hawaii**

*Holding Power Accountable*

*Common Cause Hawaii • 307A Kamani St. • Honolulu, HI 96813 • 808.275.6275*

---

To: The House Committee on Finance  
From: Brodie Lockard for the Common Cause Hawaii Board  
Date: Thursday, February 21, 2019, 1:30 pm

**In strong support of HB 1248**

Dear FIN Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Committee Members—

Common Cause Hawaii strongly supports HB 1248.

Five states now use Vote by Mail to various degrees. The Hawaii State Office of Elections estimates approximately **\$750,000 would be saved** in each election cycle by converting to VBM. It has increased voter turnout, with very little evidence of voter fraud.

For many years Hawaii has had the lowest voter turnout of any state. VBM makes voting easy and convenient. It requires fewer voting machines, fewer polling places, fewer poll workers and fewer lines; and causes less confusion at polling places.

A verifiable paper trail is maintained for all ballots. Replacement ballots for lost or damaged ballots are available from the county clerks, who cancel the original ballot before issuing a replacement. In-person voting sites will continue to be available for voters who would like to vote in-person and to provide additional services to voters.

In recent years, voters have increasingly opted to vote by mail instead of voting in person at walk-in polling places. During the 2016 general election, 53.6% of Hawaii voters cast their ballots prior to Election Day.

Please pass HB 1248 and encourage voting for everyone in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Brodie Lockard  
Board Member, Common Cause Hawaii

**HB-1248-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 1:09:53 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:



**HB-1248-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/16/2019 8:42:55 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

I have been testifying in support of this measure for way too long. More people are voting absentee than showing up at the polls. It costs more to have elections at the polls than mail ballots. It is hard for the authorities to find poll workers and poll watchers. Mail is the way to go, now. Stop stalling.

I was pleased to see that the original bill was amended to start the statewide voting in 2020 instead of 2022. Please pass the bill as amended and keep the inception date as 2020.

Lynne Matusow

**HB-1248-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2019 8:42:32 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dr Marion Ceruti	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Mandatory mail-in ballots make fraud much easier than it already is.

**HB-1248-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2019 12:27:45 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Stefani jeremiah	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

**HB-1248-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 4:37:50 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Caroline Kunitake	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear FIN Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Committee Members—

I strongly support HB 1248 HD1.

Five states now use Vote by Mail to various degrees. It has increased voter turnout, with very little evidence of voter fraud.

Hawaii has had the lowest voter turnout of any state, for many years. VBM makes voting easy and convenient. The Hawaii State Office of Elections estimates approximately \$750,000 would be saved in each election cycle by converting to VBM. It requires fewer voting machines, fewer polling places, fewer poll workers and fewer lines; and causes less confusion at polling places.

A verifiable paper trail is maintained for all ballots. Replacement ballots for lost or damaged ballots are available from the county clerks, who cancel the original ballot before issuing a replacement. In-person voting sites will continue to be available for voters who would like to vote in-person and to provide additional services to voters.

In recent years, voters have increasingly opted to vote by mail instead of voting in person at walk-in polling places. During the 2016 general election, 53.6% of Hawaii voters cast their ballots prior to Election Day.

Please pass HB 1248 and encourage voting for everyone in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Caroline Kunitake



**HB-1248-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 5:24:35 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Suellen Barton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-1248-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 6:31:20 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Quartero	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

Aloha Kakou COMMON CAUSE OF HAWAII,

Please let this response to your email serve as notice of a MISREPRESENTATION in your statements for HB 1248 HD1. Although I support open and fair elections, I am not in support of HB 1248 HHD1 where I am a Voter Assistance Official, and representing Hawaii State Government during Primary and General Elections for the county of Honolulu, I am extremely concerned that we DO NOT HAVE A VERIFIABLE PAPER TRAIL for adult suffrage to effect validation/verification for all ballots. I suspect 'VOTE BY MAIL' ballots to suffer the same fate as those who participate in adult suffrage at their local polling site. Where 2018 elections demonstrated a lack of accountability, I am appalled by the fact that as a Voter Assistance Official, I provided a receipt for each and every ballot cast therefore, I was able to ascertain the fact that not a single receipt matched any of the ballot cast, and said receipt was printed in bulk as a separate document from each ballot. An individual voting in person thru a polling site is unable to verify the specific ballot cast once the ballot is accepted in the ballot machine despite being given a separate receipt. Based upon this system, one can use software to rig the final numbers, and replace the original polling site secured box with another, fraudulent yet identical secured box with 'false ballots' to justify 'rigged elections.' Where I have not participated in VOTE BY MAIL, I am assuming that all VBM collected represent the same ballots as adult suffrage, and where the receipt does not match the ballot being sent in for voting, VBM collections are 'most-likely' being rigged if based upon the same receipt system.

Regards,

Robert Quartero  
(808)724-0129

**HB-1248-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 7:17:11 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Catherine Roberts	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-1248-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 7:59:18 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Anita Trubitt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-1248-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 8:32:50 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Willis H A Moore	Individual	Oppose	No

## Comments:

This testimony is in opposition to HB 1248:

Hawai'i already has "vote by mail" option to any/all who desire. When the OOElections straightens out the mess resulting in the 2018 City Council election, this "vote by mail" option should suffice.

While alleging that numbers of voters participate in elections, there is insufficient proof of this claim. With nine years of living part-time and working part-time in Oregon, I would state that the voter participation in Oregon is not significantly better than currently in Hawai'i.

It is true that the current system of precinct voting places costs \$750K/election, this is about \$1/per registered voter and thus is not a significant "savings" if going to all mail.

The OOElections should be encouraged to consolidate polling places within each precinct and district, to preserve a "polling place" for those who prefer "going out to vote on election day."

For the record, I have served as a precinct Chair Person in the 29th District since 2000 and have a good understanding of our our current process works. There is NO DEMONSTRATED NEED to go to an all mail ballot for Hawai'i.....keep the current system, make improvements, tighten procedures, and consider the REAL reason for low voter turnout: choice of candidates. Far too many races are decided in the primary, leaving little to vote on in the general election. Better use of legislative thought and work could be considering the system in California where the "top two vote getters" in the primary become the candidates of the General Election even if both be in the same party.

Mahalo for listening,

(Prof) Willis H A Moore

335 Merchant St., 1698, Honolulu HI 96806

808-782-3562





**HB-1248-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 8:41:44 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Andrea Nandoskar	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-1248-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 8:47:57 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
George M Clifford	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-1248-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 9:10:59 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michael deYcaza	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-1248-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 9:17:43 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christopher Boscole	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear FIN Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Committee Members—

I strongly support HB 1248 HD1.

Five states now use Vote by Mail to various degrees. It has increased voter turnout, with very little evidence of voter fraud.

Hawaii has had the lowest voter turnout of any state, for many years. VBM makes voting easy and convenient. The Hawaii State Office of Elections estimates approximately \$750,000 would be saved in each election cycle by converting to VBM. It requires fewer voting machines, fewer polling places, fewer poll workers and fewer lines; and causes less confusion at polling places.

A verifiable paper trail is maintained for all ballots. Replacement ballots for lost or damaged ballots are available from the county clerks, who cancel the original ballot before issuing a replacement. In-person voting sites will continue to be available for voters who would like to vote in-person and to provide additional services to voters.

In recent years, voters have increasingly opted to vote by mail instead of voting in person at walk-in polling places. During the 2016 general election, 53.6% of Hawaii voters cast their ballots prior to Election Day.

Please pass HB 1248 and encourage voting for everyone in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Christopher Boscole



**HB-1248-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 11:10:51 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Beth Webb	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I think voting by mail is a valuable means of expediting the voting process and may increase the numbers who do vote while saving money. Please pass this bill.

**HB-1248-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 11:24:40 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ashley Wilcox	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill will allow more people to vote.

**HB-1248-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 11:59:50 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Barbara J. Service	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

Please support all-mail voting. Kauai is doing a pilot next year and then hopefully, it will go statewide. It make the process so much easier plus will save counties a lot of money..

**HB-1248-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 1:09:25 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jonathan Boyne	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB1248 HD1 would enact voting by mail uniformly across all counties for all elections commencing in 2020.

Voting by mail makes it easier for everyone to participate in elections, and saves money compared to our current system.

**HB-1248-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 2:13:56 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-1248-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 2:36:32 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strongly Support!

**LATE**

**HB-1248-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 5:29:48 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support HB1248, which will help reverse the pathetic voter turnout we've seen in recent elections,

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn

Kihei

**LATE**

From: Shay Chan Hodges <noreply@jotform.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, February 20, 2019 4:31 PM  
To: FINtestimony  
Subject: In support of SB1248: Relating to Minimum Wage

To: House Committee on Finance  
Hearing time: Friday, February 22, 2019, 12:30 PM  
Hearing location: Conference room 308  
Subject: Support with amendments of HB 1191 HD1

From: Shay Chan Hodges  
Email: shay.chanhodges@gmail.com  
Attending the hearing: No

---

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Committee:

Mahalo for hearing this important bill. I support HB 1191 HD1, with the amendments described below.

This bill would raise the minimum wage from the current \$10.10 an hour -- or \$21,000 per year for full-time work -- in 5 annual steps, topping out at \$15 in 2024. But workers who get health insurance from their employer would get only \$12.50 in 2024 -- a raise of less than 50 cents per hour per year.

That comes out to \$26,000 per year for full-time work. Everyone who lives in Hawaii and faces our high cost of living on a daily basis knows that's not enough to make ends meet now, let alone in 2024.

That's why I respectfully request that the committee increase the steps up in the minimum wage to \$17 per hour, with \$14 per hour for those who get health insurance from their employers.

Since big box retailers can afford the higher wage across the board, I also respectfully request that the committee restrict the health care credit to only small businesses with 25 or fewer employees.

To avoid a permanent two-tiered wage, I also request that the health care credit be phased out over 5 years in order to eventually have all of our minimum wage workers earning the same wage.

Please pass HB 1191 HD1 with the above amendments. Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.



**LATE**

**HB-1248-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 8:00:40 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
L.M. Holmes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha FIN Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Committee Members,

I strongly support HB 1248 HD1.

Five states now use Vote by Mail to various degrees. It has increased voter turnout, with very little evidence of voter fraud.

Hawaii has had the lowest voter turnout of any state, for many years. VBM makes voting easy and convenient. The Hawaii State Office of Elections estimates approximately \$750,000 would be saved in each election cycle by converting to VBM. It requires fewer voting machines, fewer polling places, fewer poll workers and fewer lines; and causes less confusion at polling places. A verifiable paper trail is maintained for all ballots. Replacement ballots for lost or damaged ballots are available from the county clerks, who cancel the original ballot before issuing a replacement. In-person voting sites will continue to be available for voters who would like to vote in-person and to provide additional services to voters.

In recent years, voters have increasingly opted to vote by mail instead of voting in person at walk-in polling places. During the 2016 general election, 53.6% of Hawaii voters cast their ballots prior to Election Day.

Please pass HB 1248 and encourage voting for everyone in Hawaii.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Dr. Lorna Holmes, Honolulu 96817

**LATE**

**HB-1248-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 8:19:06 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kathy Shimata	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This will make it easier for us to participate in elections.

**From:** bob-marion@hawaiiantel.net  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 20, 2019 8:59 PM  
**To:** FINtestimony  
**Subject:** support HB1248 HD1

**LATE**

Dear FIN Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Committee Members—

We strongly support HB 1248 HD1.

Five states now use Vote by Mail to various degrees. It has increased voter turnout, with very little evidence of voter fraud.

Hawaii has had the lowest voter turnout of any state, for many years. VBM makes voting easy and convenient. The Hawaii State Office of Elections estimates approximately \$750,000 would be saved in each election cycle by converting to VBM. It requires fewer voting machines, fewer polling places, fewer poll workers and fewer lines; and causes less confusion at polling places.

A verifiable paper trail is maintained for all ballots. Replacement ballots for lost or damaged ballots are available from the county clerks, who cancel the original ballot before issuing a replacement. In-person voting sites will continue to be available for voters who would like to vote in-person and to provide additional services to voters.

In recent years, voters have increasingly opted to vote by mail instead of voting in person at walk-in polling places. During the 2016 general election, 53.6% of Hawaii voters cast their ballots prior to Election Day.

Please pass HB 1248 and encourage voting for everyone in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Robert and Marion McHenry

**LATE**

**HB-1248-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 10:20:46 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Diana Shaw	Lanai Community Health Center	Support	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-1248-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2019 8:02:08 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Greg Puppione	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear FIN Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Committee Members—

I strongly support HB 1248 HD1.

Five states now use Vote by Mail to various degrees. It has increased voter turnout, with very little evidence of voter fraud.

Hawaii has had the lowest voter turnout of any state, for many years. VBM makes voting easy and convenient. The Hawaii State Office of Elections estimates approximately \$750,000 would be saved in each election cycle by converting to VBM. It requires fewer voting machines, fewer polling places, fewer poll workers and fewer lines; and causes less confusion at polling places.

A verifiable paper trail is maintained for all ballots. Replacement ballots for lost or damaged ballots are available from the county clerks, who cancel the original ballot before issuing a replacement. In-person voting sites will continue to be available for voters who would like to vote in-person and to provide additional services to voters.

In recent years, voters have increasingly opted to vote by mail instead of voting in person at walk-in polling places. During the 2016 general election, 53.6% of Hawaii voters cast their ballots prior to Election Day.

Please pass HB 1248 and encourage voting for everyone in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Mahalo for your service to our community, and for your careful consideration of this matter. Aloha, Greg Puppione Honolulu, HI

**HB-1248-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2019 10:49:46 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 1:30:00 PM

**LATE**

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nathan Park	Common Cause Hawaii	Support	No

## Comments:

Dear FIN Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Committee Members—

I strongly support HB 1248 HD1.

Five states now use Vote by Mail to various degrees. It has increased voter turnout, with very little evidence of voter fraud.

Hawaii has had the lowest voter turnout of any state, for many years. VBM makes voting easy and convenient. The Hawaii State Office of Elections estimates approximately \$750,000 would be saved in each election cycle by converting to VBM. It requires fewer voting machines, fewer polling places, fewer poll workers and fewer lines; and causes less confusion at polling places.

A verifiable paper trail is maintained for all ballots. Replacement ballots for lost or damaged ballots are available from the county clerks, who cancel the original ballot before issuing a replacement. In-person voting sites will continue to be available for voters who would like to vote in-person and to provide additional services to voters.

In recent years, voters have increasingly opted to vote by mail instead of voting in person at walk-in polling places. During the 2016 general election, 53.6% of Hawaii voters cast their ballots prior to Election Day.

Please pass HB 1248 and encourage voting for everyone in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**LATE**

**HB-1248-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2019 12:58:38 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
DJ Iijima	Individual	Support	No

**Comments:**

I strongly support HB 1248 HD1, Five states now Vote by mail to various degrees, It has increased voter turnout, with very little evidence of voter fraud.

Hawaii has had the lowest turnout of any state, for many years. VBM makes voting easy and convenient. The State Office of Elections estimates approximately \$750,000 would be saved in each election cycle by converting to VBM, It requires fewer voting machines, fewer polling places, fewer poll workers and fewer lines: and causes less confusion at polling places. A verifiable paper trail is maintained for all ballots. In recent years, voters have increasingly opted to vote by mail instead of voting in person at walk-in polling places. During the 2016 general election, 53% of Hawaii voters cast their ballots prior to Election Day.

Please pass HB1248 and encourage voters for everyone in Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**HB-1248-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2019 1:23:23 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 1:30:00 PM

**LATE**

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeremy Garrett	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this measure.